

Amendment
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/638,554

REMARKS

In this Amendment, claims 1-4, 7-11, 13, 17, 21-23, and 25-28 are amended and claims 6, 19, and 29-33 are canceled. As a result, claims 1-5, 7-18, and 20-28 are pending in the subject application with claims 1, 11, 22, 27, and 28 being independent.

The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 9, 19, and 29, which were indicated as being objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-18, 20-28, and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,580,800 to Yamasaki. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 6, which was indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10 are allowable over the prior art of record at least for their dependency on independent claim 1. Applicants note that minor amendments were made to claims 2-4 and 7-10 due to the incorporation into claim 1 of the subject matter of allowable claim 6.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to include limitations from dependent claim 19, which was indicated as being allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11, as amended, is allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 12-18 and 20-21 are allowable over the prior art of record at least for their dependency on independent claim 11. Applicants note that minor amendments were made to claims 13, 17, and 21 due to the incorporation into claim 11 of the subject matter of allowable claim 19.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to include features of dependent claim 6, which was indicated as being allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 22, as amended, is allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 23-26 are allowable over the prior art of record at least for their dependency on independent

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claim 22. Applicants note that some amendments were made to claims 23, 25, and 26 due to the incorporation into claim 22 of the subject matter of allowable claim 6.

Also, independent claim 27 has been amended to include limitations from dependent claim 6, which was indicated as being allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 27, as amended, is allowable over the prior art of record.

Finally, independent claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 29, which was indicated as being allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 28 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims set forth herein do not add new matter or raise new issues, and otherwise put this application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to find claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-28 to be in condition for allowance. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,

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